

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 /092 W  
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R 260815Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8574  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 1345

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV MASS LA VM  
SUBJECT: KHAMTAI SIPHANDONE LEADS MILITARY DELEGATION TO VIET NAM

REF: A VIENTIANE 1306, B VIENTIANE 1326, C VIENTIANE  
1317, D VIENTIANE 1335, E VIENTIANE 1320

SUMMARY: KHAMTAI SIPHANDONE HEADED AN LPLA DELEGATION WHICH VISITED VIETNAM SEPTEMBER 12-22. THE DELEGATION MADE APPEARANCES THROUGHOUT VIETNAM AND MET WITH TOP PARTY, STATE AND MILITARY LEADERS. THE JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENTS UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LAO-VIETNAMESE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP"; PLEDGED MUTUAL DEFENSE OF THE "RELATIONSHIP" AGAINST THOSE THAT WOULD TRY TO DIVIDE THE "FRATERNAL LAO AND VIETNAMESE PEOPLES"; INDICATED INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN STATES; SUGGESTED LAO DEPENDENCE ON THE VIETNAMESE; AND CONTAINED DIRECT ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES. THE VISIT AND COMMENTS BY KHAMTAI INDICATED  
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THE SUBORDINATE ROLE OF THE LPDR IN THE LAO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY

1. A LAO MILITARY DELEGATION LED BY KHAMTAI SIPHANDONE, LPRPCC POLITBURO MEMBER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE LPLA, RETURNED TO VIENTIANE SEPTEMBER 22, CONCLUDING A TEN DAY VISIT TO

THE SRV, THE FIRST SUCH VISIT BY AN LPDR MILITARY DELEGATION. THE DELEGATION ALSO INCLUDED SAMAN VILAKET, LPRP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND VICE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE; SOMSAK SAISONKHAM, ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE LPRP CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND VICE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE; SITHON PHALIKHAN, ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE LPRP CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR; AND KHEMPHON PHOUIPASEUT, SECRETARY OF THE XIENG KHOANG MILITARY ZONE PARTY COMMITTEE, ZONE COMMANDER AND POLITICAL COMMISSAR.

2. IN WHAT THE VIETNAMESE MEDIA DESCRIBED AS AN "HISTORIC VISIT" THE DELEGATION TRAVELLED TO HO CHI MINH CITY, DONG NAI AND NGHE TINH PROVINCES (WHERE IT VISITED THE BIRTHPLACE OF HO CHI MINH), QUANG NAM DA NANG PROVINCE, AND THE 4TH AND 7TH MILITARY REGIONS IN ADDITION TO CEREMONIAL VISITS TO THE HO CHI MINH MAUSOLEUM AND MEETINGS WITH LE DUAN, PHAM VAN DONG AND OTHER VIETNAMESE LEADERS IN HANOI. VO NGUYEN GIAP RECEIVED THE DELEGATION AND HOSTED A WELCOMING RECEPTION IN HANOI.

3. KHAMTAI NOTED THAT TALKS WERE CONDUCTED "BETWEEN THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF THE LPLA AND THE PAVN AND THE NATIONAL DEFENSE MINISTRIES OF LAOS AND VIETNAM." (ALL OF THE DELEGATION MEMBERS EXCEPT KHEMPHON WERE IDENTIFIED AS CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE LPRP.)  
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STATEMENT BY LAO AND VIETNAMESE LEADERS NOTED THE "UNANIMITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE VIETNAM-LAOS FRIENDSHIP, AS WELL AS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN."

4. PROMINENT THEMES IN LAO AND VIETNAMESE PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE VISIT WERE:  
A) MUTUAL ALLEGIANCE TO THE CONCEPT OF THE LAOS-VIETNAM "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP": AT THE FAREWELL BANQUET KHAMTAI SAID: "THE TWO SIDES AFFIRM THAT THE LAOS-VIETNAM SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IS A PRECIOUS TRADITION, AN INDESTRUCTIBLE FORCE, AND A LAW GOVERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REVOLUTION IN EACH COUNTRY." SPEAKING OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, KHAMTAI INVOKED THE MEMORY OF HO CHI MINH, "THE FOUNDER OF THE INDO-CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY, FORERUNNER OF THE LAO AND VIETNAMESE PARTIES" WHO HAD "A LIFE-LONG CONCERN FOR THE GREAT SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO PARTIES AND THE PEOPLES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES." KHAMTAI ALSO REFERRED TO THE "GREAT MILITANT SOLIDARITY BLOC BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." THE LPRP DAILY "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" IN TURN REFERRED TO THE VISIT AS A "NEW

STEP IN THE SPECIAL UNITY" BETWEEN LAOS AND VIETNAM.  
KHAMTAI VOWED TO PRESERVE THE "GREAT FRIENDSHIP AND  
MILITANT SOLIDARITY" BETWEEN LAOS AND VIETNAM " IN ORDER  
TO REPAY THE SINCERE AND INVALUABLE GREAT SUPPORT AND  
ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY THE VIETNAMESE."

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 1345

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- B) RESISTANCE TO SCHEMES TO DESTROY THE LAOS-VIETNAM  
"SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP": KHAMTAI VOWED THAT THE "UNITED  
STRENGTH OF THE LAO AND VIETNAMESE ARMY AND PEOPLE...  
WILL COMPLETELY FOIL...SINISTER SCHEMES AND TRICKS  
AIMED AT SOWING DISSENSION BETWEEN OUR TWO ARMIES AND  
PEOPLES." DURING THE COURSE OF THE VISIT THE LAO MEDIA  
SIMILARLY STRESSED THE NEED FOR DEFENSE OF THE "SPECIAL  
RELATIONSHIP" AS NOTED REF A.
- C) LAO-VIETNAMESE INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST  
ASIA: KHAMTAI REFERRED TO THE "VIGOROUS GROWTH OF THE  
PAVN" AS A "FIRM GUARANTEE FOR THE COOPERATION BETWEEN  
OUR TWO FRATERNAL ARMIES TO DEFEND THE INDEPENDENCE AND  
SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH COUNTRY AND THE OUTPOST OF SOCIALISM  
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND TO MAINTAIN A STABLE SITUATION  
IN THIS REGION." LE DUAN SAID THAT LAO-VIETNAMESE  
SOLIDARITY "CORRESPONDS TO THE INTERESTS OF OTHER NATIONS  
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IN THE STRUGGLE FOR GENUINE NATIONAL  
INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY, PEACE AND NEUTRALITY..."
- D) LAO GRATITUDE FOR VIETNAMESE SUPPORT ESPECIALLY IN

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THE AREA OF TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO LPLA CADRE: KHAMTAI DESCRIBED LPLA CADRE AS "LACKING IN BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND LACKING IN KNOWLEDGE IN THE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS AND IN BASIC POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC THEORIES."

E) CONTINUED HOSTILITY TO THE U.S.: KHAMTAI CHARGED THAT THE U.S. FOSTERED LAO "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES IN EXILE" AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ASEAN (AS REPORTED REF B).

5. THE VISIT TOOK PLACE AT A TIME OF REPORTS OF INCREASED VIETNAMESE PRESENCE IN LAOS (REFS C AND D). THE VISIT ALSO COINCIDED WITH THE RATIFICATION OF THE LAO-VIETNAMESE "FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION TREATY" BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE VIETNAMESE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (SEPTEMBER 15), AND THE ARRIVAL AT VIENTIANE'S WATTAY AIRPORT OF MIG AIRCRAFT FROM HANOI (REF E).

6. COMMENT: LAO AND VIETNAMESE LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY AFFIRMED THE "SPECIAL" NATURE OF LAO-VIETNAMESE PARTY AND STATE RELATIONS. KHAMTAI'S VISIT FORMALLY COMPLETES THE PARTY-STATE-ARMY TRIAD BY AFFIRMING THE "SPECIAL" NATURE OF LAO-VIETNAMESE MILITARY RELATIONS AS WELL.

7. KHAMTAI'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT LAO SUPPORT FOR THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" IS IN "REPAYMENT" FOR PAST VIETNAMESE SUPPORT (PARA 4, A) PLUS HIS ADMISSION THAT LPLA CADRE ARE INFERIOR TO THEIR PAVN COUNTERPARTS IN VARIOUS AREAS OF "KNOWLEDGE" (PARA 4, D), LEAVES LITTLE DOUBT AS TO THE LPLA'S SUBORDINATE ROLE IN THE RELATIONSHIP. THE ROLE OF THE LAO AS "LITTLE BROTHER" IN THE LAO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONSHIP HAS LONG BEEN AN IRRITANT TO MANY LAO (AND A THEME FREQUENTLY EXPLOITED BY THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT INSURGENTS). KHAMTAI'S VISIT WILL THEREFORE  
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DO LITTLE TO ASSIST THE CURRENT LPDR CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" AMONG THE LAO (REF A) ALTHOUGH IT CLEARLY CONFIRMS THE REALITY AND IMPORTANCE OF THAT RELATIONSHIP.  
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## Message Attributes

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